



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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Supervisors seek funds for Glen Helen, other grade separation projects

SAN BERNARDINO – The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday agreed to seek Public Utilities Commission (PUC) funding for five railroad grade separation projects, including one on Glen Helen Parkway in Devore that will double as a bridge over Cajon Creek.

The PUC released a call for grade separation projects in July so the commission can establish priority funding lists for the next two fiscal years. California annually sets aside \$15 million for grade separation projects. Only projects on the PUC list are eligible for this funding.

“Separating railways from our roadways improves safety and keeps traffic moving, so it’s essential for us to secure funding to get these projects done,” Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane said.

Biane has been working closely with County Public Works on the Glen Helen Parkway grade separation project. The project is in the Second District, which Biane represents.

“The Glen Helen Parkway project will relieve two major traffic issues by creating a bridge that passes over busy railroad tracks and Cajon Creek,” Biane said.

The County has been forced to close Glen Helen Parkway for extended periods because of damage caused by Cajon Creek, which flows across the roadway at a dip crossing west of the railroad tracks. Water seeping under the asphalt at the dip crossing has undermined the roadway. On Tuesday, Supervisors approved a \$135,827 contract to repair the dip crossing and to provide erosion protection at the Cajon Creek crossing.

“Once the grade separation project is completed, repairs like this won’t be necessary, and residents won’t have to worry about the creek washing out their road again,” Biane said.

Other grade separation projects nominated for PUC funding include railroad crossings on Palm Avenue in Devore, Lenwood Road in Barstow, Vista Road in Helendale, and National Trails Highway in Oro Grande.

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